

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification

Applicants have amended the Title of the Invention to better indicate the invention to which the presently amended claims are directed.

Claim Objections

Claims 8-9, 18-23, and 27-29 have been amended to place the claims in proper dependent form, as indicated by the examiner.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 14-15, 20-21, and 24-26, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okada et al., US 2001/0040625 ("Okada"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons that follow.

Okada embodies many of the problems associated with the prior art as pointed out by applicants at page 2, line 21, through page 3, line 3, of the present application:

These systems capture images with an electronic sensor and store the digital image files in digital memory. Because of the high value of the camera and memory, these systems force the consumer to return the camera to the retailer before the images can be accessed. Often the images are in encrypted form and are completely inaccessible to the consumer until the camera is returned. In addition no means is provided to review the images with the camera since, unlike most digital cameras, no image display is provided. Furthermore, . . . [they] . . . are designed to take a fixed number of images, such as 25, and no contingency is provided to add more memory, such as by adding a new memory card, or extracting the digital image files from the camera by anyone other than the retailer.

What is needed is a system that allows for the ease of use and ready availability of the film system for obtaining prints while maintaining the flexibility of the digital system for viewing and sharing images.

A careful reading of Okada verifies that the services described by Okada fall far short of the advantages provided by the presently claimed invention. Paragraphs [0042] - [0049] of Okada, which describe FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 3C, confirm that the reusable camera described therein has no display, no means for a user to view images recorded thereon, no button to view, delete, or otherwise select images that are photographed by a camera user. In fact, the sheath surrounding the camera required by Okada, see paragraph [0040] therein, would interfere with and obstruct many of the features supported by the presently claimed invention, such as a display, buttons for manipulating and viewing stored images, and a slot for a memory device, for example. Hence, Okada clearly teaches away from providing the ease of use of a digital system and, clearly in opposition to the present invention, that the preferred method for implementing his invention is to minimize the flexibility provided to a user for all the reasons that applicants identified in the present patent application, as excerpted above.

The advantages provided by the presently claimed method of providing at least one recyclable memory storage device while simultaneously permitting photographers to use their own familiar digital cameras is not even remotely hinted by Okada. Presently amended claim 1, and newly added claim 30, recite that the photographer provides a digital camera, that the images on the memory device can be optionally deleted or transferred (shared) from another camera, and that multiple memory devices are capable of being provided to the photographer. These features are described in the present application at least at page 4, lines 14-17; page 7, lines 10-15; and page 2, lines 29-30, respectively. None of these features are mentioned in Okada, or in any of the prior art references cited by the examiner.

Claim 14, thereby claims 15 and 17 depending therefrom, has been amended to clarify that the memory includes two portions, one of which is not electronically readable by the user's camera, as described at p. 6, lines 11-14. This feature is not mentioned in Okada, hence, these claims are allowable over Okada. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 1 and include all its limitations and so are also allowable over Okada. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the prerecorded image is a digital image that is electronically presented on a camera display (see page 5, lines 17-19), as opposed to the pre-printed sheath required by Okada, which is not mentioned by Okada and so is also allowable over Okada for that reason. Claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24, include its limitations, and are also allowable over Okada for the same reasons as claim 24.

Claims 2-5, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Okada in view of Takano US2001/0041072 ("Takano"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons that follow.

With regard to claim 2, Takano does not make up for the deficiencies of Okada with respect to claim 1 as explained above. Claim 2 includes the limitations of claim 1 and is allowable over Okada in view of Takano in light of the presently amended claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 has been amended to recite that a number of prints that are promised is less than the number of prints stored on the memory device, as explained at page 6, lines 17-20. This limitation is not mentioned in Takano, therefore, claim 3, and claims 4 and 5, depending therefrom, are also allowable. Claim 28 has been amended to differentiate the index image numbering of the present invention over that of Takano, as illustrated in applicants' FIG. 5 and its accompanying description.

For the reasons described above, remaining claims 7 -13, 16, 18-19, 22-24, 26, 27, and 29 depend directly or indirectly from presently amended claim 1 and contain its limitations. Claim 6 has been cancelled. None of the prior art references relied upon by the examiner remedy the described deficiencies of Okada in view of the presently amended claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

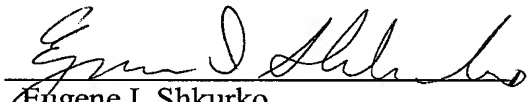
This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company, Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

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A duplicate copy of this request is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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